Balazs Western Civ.

Assignment: Essay

Typed, double spaced, due Tuesday 9/23

Sophocles’ play, Antigone addresses the issues of conscience, courage, loyalty and law breaking. Creon and Antigone both feel strongly about their respective duties, Creon to the State and Antigone to her brother and what she perceives as a higher or universal law.

While Creon’s position may seem less sympathetic, remember this is a State that has seen its King exile himself followed by a horrible civil war between two brothers. For Creon stability and order are critical.

Antigone doesn’t take sides in the civil war, she doesn’t seem to favor Eteocles or Polyneikes, that’s not her concern. Her act of civil disobedience is out of a sense of loyalty to her brother rather than the State.

Using the play itself, as well as your own life experience, take a clear position and without using an I, me or mine (no personal pronouns), respond to the following questions.

Have you ever “broken the rules” for what you feel is a higher purpose? How important is it to respect law and if each person has the right to decide laws themselves then won’t that lead to anarchy? (your response should address both questions).

1. Clear thesis
2. No personal pronouns
3. Support your analysis through facts (both in the play and real life)
4. Address both sides of the issue but ultimately come clearly down in one direction. Don’t be wishy – washy.
5. Check your spelling and grammar (don’t simply rely on your computer)
6. Use transition words to connect ideas (sentences and paragraphs)
7. Essay should be in the nature of ¾ of a page to 1 ¼ pages.